

to keep the champions of the 11-hour fight from leaving the world a shambles. If we manage to solve that one, we will still have an abundance of others to plague us. If we don't solve it, none of the other problems will matter.

If we are not to go over the brink, a new party must come to power in America, but in the meantime it is highly desirable that a large number of independent votes be cast as a declaration of "no confidence" in the established order of things and, if possible, a few independent voices be placed in Congress to lend moral support to the handful of maverick Democrats already there.

R. RIDDLE
Denver, Colorado

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B O O K S

Who Killed President Kennedy?

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by HARRISON E. SALISBURY

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Peace Plea

Dear Sirs:

Interested readers are invited to help the peace movement in Australia and New Zealand by sending books, journals, news clippings, and documents on the war in Vietnam and other trouble spots. Information received will be used in articles, reprinted, or distributed to concerned individuals and groups.

Free mailings of important articles are made to all Australian and New Zealand Members of Parliament to promote peace in Vietnam and more realistic foreign policy toward new emerging Asian states. If elected to office during the November 1966 elections, the Labor parties of Australia and New Zealand may withdraw troops. This would be a significant de-escalatory step toward peace.

In return for materials sent, correspondents will receive selected Foundation peace papers by return mail.

L. F. J. Ross, Chairman
Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation
of Australia and New Zealand
Box 18527, Christchurch 7,
New Zealand

Progressive's Courage

Dear Sirs:

I regard *The Progressive* as the truest exponent of an indigenously American contribution to political thinking. Moreover, your courage in voicing opinions which are highly unpopular in a country prone to hysterical witch-hunting (a tendency which is not restricted to the United States) deserves the heartiest applause and support.

ENRIQUE VERA VILLALOBOS
Buenos Aires,
Argentina

FIVE DAYS after President Kennedy was assassinated, November 22, 1963, I made a few notations in an occasional diary I keep. From the moment of the assassination until the evening of November 27, I had been so occupied in directing the news coverage for *The New York Times* that I had not had a moment for reflective thought. I want to quote two paragraphs from what I jotted down because they have a close bearing on what I shall have to say in this review:

"I am sure that the echo of this killing will resound down the corridors of our history for years and years and years. It is so strange, so bizarre, so incredible, so susceptible to legend making . . . It matches Lincoln's assassination and may well have equal public effects.

"I am convinced that Oswald was a psychopath and Ruby a cheap gangster and that these were individual acts. But it is no trick to create a hypothesis of something just the opposite. We are running down every single item of Oswald's background that can be found. And, strange story though it is

there is not one fact thus far which essentially changes the public story—or makes it any more understandable."

Ten months later, September 27, 1964, the Warren Commission issued its report on President Kennedy's assassination. Writing that day in an introduction of a paperback edition of the Commission report I said:

"It seems naive to suppose that the Warren report—comprehensive, careful, compendious, and competent as it is—will provide the final word on Mr. Kennedy's death. The facts of Abraham Lincoln's murder are well known. Yet today, one hundred years after his death, the legends of its occurrence are still flowering.

"The legend of President Kennedy's death began with the crack of the sniper's rifle that took his life. It was born at about 12:30 p.m. on November 22, 1963, when the lethal bullet whined toward his body.

"It has grown steadily since that moment. As an editor of *The New York Times* remarked when he read the bulletin announcing the President's death at 1:35 p.m. that day: 'The year 2000 will see men still arguing and writing about the President's death.'"

A little more than two years have passed since the Warren Commission delivered its report and those words were written. It is nearly three years since the President's tragic death. The legend, the enigma, the Euripidean tragedy of that event have not receded. As was predicted, all have grown and flowered. The Warren Commission report, far from quenching the flames

INQUEST, by Edward Jay Epstein
The Viking Press. 224 pp. \$5.

RUSH TO JUDGMENT, by Mark Lane
Holt, Rinehart & Winston. 478 pp.
\$5.95.

THE OSWALD AFFAIR, by Leo Sauvage
World. 418 pp. \$6.95.